

REMARKS

Applicant has filed a request for continued examination (RCE) herewith in order to obtain reconsideration without amendment based upon the following remarks.

The Examiner is referred to Column 4, lines 1-17 of Huang et al where it is indicated that to make the encapsulation protocol work, "two communication nodes have to establish one or more protocol associations", and thus "address maps" have to be generated before the system can be functional (this is also indicated in FIG. 6 of Huang et al). To obtain these address-map associations, the communication nodes have to be functional in the IP layer, essentially combining an IP-layer router with Huang et al's group packet encapsulation/compression method. In contrast, the Applicant's invention does not require these "protocol associations" or "address maps". This is evidenced by FIG. 1 of the present application where the inventive device 110/120/130 is completely separated from Router 150/152/154 in the wide area network side and from Switch 140/142/144 in the local area network side. In other words, the related "protocol associations", "address maps", or any other required network protocol functions are addressed by another communications device, not by the Applicant's invention. This implies that the Applicant's invention can work with any ISO-standard compliant communication devices (i.e., routers, switches, gateways, etc.) regardless of their layers of protocol. As noted in the present application at page 6, lines 15-17, the invention will work with "ATM switches, Ethernet switches, IP switches and any other switches" which are switches for different ISO layers. On the other hand all methods taught by Huang et al are specific to the IP layer and there is no suggestion that the same methods can be directly applied to other ISO layers.

AMENDMENT Continued
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Based upon the foregoing, reconsideration of pending claims 1-28 is respectfully requested and an early allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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